

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-21 were pending in the application. In the Final Office Action dated March 22, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and rejected claims 2, 14-17, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 18, and 20 were objected to, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 5, 9, 12, and 18, placing objected to claims 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 18, and 20 in condition for allowance. The remaining claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11, 14-17, 19, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants hereby expressly reserve the right to present these canceled claims in a continuation application.

Applicants respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 18, and 20 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 5, 9, 12, and 18 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment

would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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